

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FAULT-TOLERANT UPDATE
OF FLASH ROM CONTENTS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 Method and apparatus for updating the contents of a first memory of a
computer system. In one embodiment, new information intended for the first
memory is received by the computer system from an external source, wherein
the first memory is for storing information that is required during startup of the
computer system. The new information thus received is stored in a second
10 memory capable of retaining information stored therein upon a restart of the
computer system. The computer system is restarted without relying on the new
information. The new ROM image can be pre-flighted before it is flashed into
ROM. In this embodiment, the new information stored in the second memory
can be verified to ensure that it is safe to load the new information into the first
15 memory. When a positive verification result is obtained, the new information is
loaded from the second memory into the first memory such that the new
information can be used for a subsequent startup of the computer system. In a
specific embodiment, the present invention includes the above and wherein the
first memory comprises a flash ROM. In one embodiment, the present invention
20 includes the above and wherein the computer system is a PDA. In a preferred
embodiment, the present invention includes the above and wherein the new
information is received by the computer system via wireless communication.

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